

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 23, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification, claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to improve clarity of the features recited therein, claim 8 has been amended incorporating the recitations of original base claim 11, claim 12 has been amended to depend from independent claim 8, and claim 11 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. Claims 2-7 are allowed, claims 1 and 12 stand objected to, and claims 8-10 stand rejected.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are pending and under consideration.

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been reviewed in response to this Office Action. Changes have been made to the specification only to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance and to resolve the Examiner's objections raised in the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS:

On page 2 of the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 11 are objected to because of minor informalities. Claim 1 has been amended to correct such minor informality. Independent claim 8 incorporates the original recitations of dependent claim 11, including the corrections to the minor informalities objected to in the Office Action

for dependent claim 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

Because there are no further objections and/or rejections regarding independent claim 1, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

In the Office Action, at page 3, claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,418,485 to Anderson et al. ("Anderson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,368,374 to Tokar et al. ("Tokar").

Dependent claim 11 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and the recitations thereof have been incorporated into independent claim 8. In the Office Action, claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Because the recitations of dependent claim 11 have been incorporated into independent claim 8, it is respectfully asserted that the rejections to independent claim 8 and related dependent claims 9, 10, and 12 are rendered moot in view of Anderson and Tokar. Thus, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 8 and related dependent claims 9, 10, and 12 be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art.

Applicants further submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobvious to a person of skill in the art. Applicants therefore respectfully request that each of claims 1, 8-10, and 12 be found allowable and, along with allowed claims 2-7, this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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